

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, comprising a porous textile support which includes an arrangement of threads each composed of at least one filament of nonabsorbable polymer material, said textile support defining a microporous texture comprising the interstices located between at least two threads at the sites of contact of one thread with at least one other thread, wherein, in at least one protected zone of the textile support, a hydrophilic absorbable material coats the textile support, forming a film enveloping and penetrating into the arrangement of threads, occluding at least the microporous texture, but without forming a plane layer covering at least one face of the textile support, the textile further defining a macroporous texture comprising volumes whose surface is defined by the empty spaces between at least two threads away from their sites of contact, and whose height is defined by the thickness of the textile support, and wherein the film of absorbable material is noncontinuous and ~~preserves~~ the macroporous texture of the textile support on said protected zone is not occluded.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support constitutes a two-dimensional structure.

4. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to 500 microns.

5. (currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 4, wherein the film has a thickness of from 10 to 100 microns.

6. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one thread comprises several filaments of nonabsorbable polymer material, and the microporous texture additionally comprises the interstices between filaments of the same thread.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support has the shape of a rectangular part and the protected zone extends along a central band of said part.

9. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is in the shape of a strip with parallel edges, the central part being a protected zone.

10. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is in the shape of a strip with parallel edges which are curved in an arch, the central part being a protected zone.

11. (currently amended) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is in the shape of a strip with nonparallel edges, ~~the~~ having a bulged central part being a protected zone and ~~the~~ narrower lateral parts being nonprotected.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbable material is chosen from the group formed by collagens, polysaccharides, and their mixtures.

15. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue structure is an extraperitoneal tissue.

16. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arrangement of threads constitutes a knitted structure.

17. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 16, wherein the interstices located between at least two threads at the site of contact of one thread with at least one other thread belong to the meshes of the knitted structure.

18. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 16, wherein the empty spaces defined between the threads, away from their sites of contact, are the intermesh spaces of the knitted structure.

19. (currently amended) A process for preparing a composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, said process comprising the following steps: i) preparing a solution A of a hydrophilic absorbable material, in the fluid or liquid state, ii) impregnating at least part of the surface of a porous textile support with solution A, said porous textile support comprising an arrangement of threads each composed of at least one filament of nonabsorbable polymer material, said textile support defining a microporous texture which includes the interstices located between at least two threads at the sites of contact of one thread with at least one other thread and a macroporous texture comprising volumes whose surface is defined by the empty spaces between at least two threads away from their sites of contact, and whose height is defined by the thickness of the textile support, wherein the macroporous texture of the textile support is not occluded iii) drying the impregnated part of the textile support.

20. (original) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the impregnation step is done by immersing said part of the surface of the textile support in solution A.

21. (original) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the impregnation step is done by spraying solution A onto said part of the surface of the textile support.

22. (original) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein solution A has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1000 centipoises.
23. (original) A composite reinforcement prosthesis obtainable by the process as claimed in claim 19.